

NEW LIZARDS  
FROM THE TROPICAL RESEARCH STATION  
BRITISH GUIANA

By G. KINGSLEY NOBLE

*Associate Curator of Herpetology, in Charge,  
American Museum of Natural History*

Among the reptiles secured by Mr. William Beebe or by his staff at the New York Zoological Society's Tropical Research Station in British Guiana, there are included a number of rare and interesting forms. Two lizards in the collection are found to be undescribed, while two others are reported from British Guiana for the first time. The latter are *Neusticurus bicarinatus* (Linné), from Kartabo, and *Cercosaura ocellata* Wagler from both Kartabo and the Bartica District. Many of the species secured by Mr. Beebe, such as *Sphaerodactylus molei* Boettger, were very imperfectly known. These Mr. Beebe is planning to discuss in a later paper. The present paper is limited to merely a description of the new forms in the collection. It may be added that the species described below will be figured in Mr. Beebe's general account of the reptiles of the Research Station.

***Gonatodes beebei* sp. nov.**

DIAGNOSIS

A large *Gonatodes* of uniform reddish brown color above and without spots on the throat or venter; a species having not one but a series of spines over the eye, and having the nostril not indenting the rostral.

TYPE

A.M.N.H. No. R-21251; adult ♂; Kartabo, British Guiana; 1921; William Beebe.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE

Size large; distance from tip of snout to ear contained exactly four times in the distance from snout to vent; greatest diameter of the eye contained one and one-half times in the

---

\* Tropical Research Station, Contribution Number 135.

distance from tip of snout to eye; distance from tip of snout to nostril contained twice in the distance between nostril and eye; distance from snout to middle of eye decidedly greater than the distance from ear to latter point; ear opening oval in outline, about one-third the greatest diameter of the eye. Digits cylindrical, proximal scales of their ventral surfaces very much larger than distal ones, grading rather abruptly into the latter; dorsal surfaces of head and body covered with coarse granules, those of the head not larger than those of the body; granules of the occiput slightly smaller than those of the snout; posterior superciliaries slightly more pointed but not distinctly larger than the supraorbitals; anterior superciliaries very much larger than the supraorbital granules, three or four of these enlarged superciliaries sharply pointed and forming a series of low spines which project from the upper eye-lid just anterior to the mid point of the eye; a large cleft rostral bordered posteriorly by three small median granules, two large lateral scales and the nostrils; nostrils in contact with the rostral but not indenting it; five upper and four lower labials; mental large, pointed behind, followed by two small scales larger than the smallest labial, gular region with coarse granules of the same size as those of the snout; ventral surfaces of the body and posterior appendages covered with large cycloid, overlapping scales, these of about three times the diameter of the dorsal granules; under surface of the tail covered proximally with scales similar to those of the abdomen, covered distally by one or two series of very broad scales,—these scales three to five times as broad as the abdominal scales.

Uniform reddish brown above, whitish immaculate below, except for a slight suffusion of brown on the abdomen and appendages, this suffusion tending to form dark edges to the scales of the ventral surface of the thigh.

#### MEASUREMENTS

Tip of Snout to Vent.....	47.0 mm.
Tip of Snout to Ear.....	11.5 “
Tip of Snout to Orbit.....	5.5 “
Greatest Width of Head.....	7.0 “
Vent to Tip of Tail.....	47.0 “

## REMARKS

The species is represented in our collections by only a single specimen. The species may be readily distinguished from other forms of *Gonatodes* by its large size, narrow head and uniform coloration. It is perhaps allied to *G. ferrugineus* described by Cope from Trinidad.

***Leposoma taeniata* sp. nov.**

## DIAGNOSIS

Very closely related to *L. scincoides* and *L. dispar*; intermediate between these two forms in scutation, very different from either in coloration; fronto-nasal obtusely angular posteriorly; one anterior and three pairs of chin shields, the posterior pair separated from each other by a single scale; scales of the body strongly keeled, mucronate; dorsal scales forming transverse and oblique rows; ventral scales forming transverse and longitudinal rows on the abdomen. Reddish brown above, whitish below, a broad band of dark brown extending along either side of the head and body.

## TYPE

A.M.N.H. No. R-21266; adult ♀; Kartabo, British Guiana; June 19, 1919; William Beebe.

## DESCRIPTION OF TYPE

Head narrow; fronto-nasal obliquely angular behind; a pair of small prefrontals, not half as long as the frontal, slightly larger than the fronto-parietals; two lateral parietals and an enormous inter-parietal, the former about one-third as wide as the latter; four supraoculars; all dorsal head shields roughened, as in the other species of *Leposoma*; no loreal but two freno-orbitals, the dorsal having twice the diameter of the ventral; six upper and five lower labials; chin shields large, one anterior and three pairs, the two anterior pairs in contact, the posterior pair separated by a single scale; a few enlarged scales posterior to the chin shields; separated from the gulars by a single row of small scales which extends across the throat from ear to

ear; chin shields similar to the ventrals, but narrower and more pointed. Body covered with uniform scales which form transverse and oblique rows on the back; transverse and longitudinal rows on the ventral surface; the scales about as broad as they are long; strongly keeled, mucronate; 27 scales around the middle of the body, 38 scales from the occiput to the base of the tail and 40 from the third pair of chin shields to the vent; 4 pre-anals, three of these slightly larger than the ventral scales; caudal scales like those of the body but the scales tending to form regular longitudinal and transverse rows as on the venter; the keels of the caudal scales forming a series of ridges; 14 of these ridges around the tail, fifteen scales from the base.

Ground tone above, reddish brown, two broad stripes of dark brown extending from the tip of the snout along the entire length of head and body and about one-third the length of the tail; no spotting on dorsal surface; a few dark spots on the labials and sides of the head; sides of the body below dark stripe, brownish, somewhat spotted; ventral surface white, immaculate except for four small spots on the chin shields and a suffusion of brown on the ventral surface of the tail.

#### MEASUREMENTS

Tip of Snout to Vent.....	34.0 mm.
Tip of Snout to Ear.....	7.5 "
Tip of Snout to Orbit .....	3.0 "
Greatest Width of Head.....	4.5 "

#### REMARKS.

The eight paratypes of this species in the collection differ only slightly in color. They all exhibit the dark band on either side of the head and body. In a few specimens there is some indication of a pale, narrow band dorsal to this dark stripe. In a few of the specimens there are a few flecks of dark brown on the dorsal surface, but these never form the dark spots found in the other species of the genus. This flecking is perhaps most distinct at the base of the tail.

There is very little variation in scutation. The scale counts of six of the paratypes (two others are badly damaged) is as follows:

Scales around the middle of the body average.....27.0

(Max. 29. Min. 26.)

Scales from occiput to base of tail average.....38.2

(Max. 39. Min. 37.)

Scales from 3d pair of chin shield to vent average 39.6

(Max. 40. Min. 39.)